

Bodies in Transit: contemporary Brazilian artists

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In the period from September 1 until October 15, the art gallery of Nassau Community College, da State University of New York (SUNY) organized an exhibition entitled *Body in transit*. It was a great opportunity to exhibit works by Brazilian artists.



From the cradle to the grave, the human body embarks on an ongoing fluctuating process of change. To think of the body's metamorphoses just in terms of its material constitution is to miss how much this trajectory of change is impregnated with social meanings. However, to reduce human subjects and complexity to the body's materiality is no longer possible in contemporary life. All reality begins with the body. All bodies are bodies in transit – a paradoxical flux of material, aesthetical and political interconnections.



FIREHOUSE PLAZA ART GALLERY

BODIES IN TRANSIT

**SEPTEMBER 1ST
TO
OCTOBER 15TH**

**OPENING
RECEPTION**
**SEPTEMBER 24TH
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

This exhibition – Bodies in Transit – intends to give flesh to the new kind of hybrid Latino subjectivities emerged out of recent relations among Brazilian, Hispanic, and U.S. Latinos. For this purpose, four contemporary Brazilian artists were invited to portray this “new Latinidad” through multimedia art installations of photography, video, and painting.

Curated by Rick J. Santos.

Bodies In Transit: Contemporary Brazilian Artists

More and more people have moved, changed and adapted. Migration and adaptation have been key to survivor in a constantly changing world. Old concepts of clans and nations have collapsed to give way to a stream of unstable bodies crossing boundaries. In this context, bodies have collided, embraced and fused with one another; differences have come together, melted, only to reemerge and create a myriad of bodies in transit plunging in alien territories.



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Alex Ferro (photo@alexferro.com.br) proposes a group of images (printed and digital) that capture metaphysical transitions between the human and the spirit worlds. In this series, he photographs Afro-latino religious practices with emphasis on traditional attributes, details of body movements, and expressions. The result shows how ancient African influences are still pertinent and vibrant in contemporary Latin American cultures.



As a photographer, **Alex Ferro** investigates popular cultures and practices in Brazil and Portugal. For this series, the artist visited an ancient Candomblé House in Rio de Janeiro during the traditional afro-religious festival of the Orisha Ogun. With a keen professional eye, he produced two different kinds of photos: realistic portraits of people/places and multilayered images that suggest immaterial elements. This blending of material and subjective bodies portrays the transit between human and the divine.

Alex Ferro was born in Rio de Janeiro. He has an undergraduate degree in Communication from Gama Filho University and a graduate degree in Social Science Photography from Cândido Mendes University. Since 2008, he has lived in-between Rio de Janeiro and Lisbon. In 2012, he became the official photographer of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Rio 2016. As a photographer, he works with projects in the areas of sports, photo essays, and news.

Mary Dutra (mary@marydutradesign.com) portrays a game of representation, where a pair of sun glasses becomes the metaphorical tool for her objects to reclaim a subject position and return the viewers' gaze. Combining an interface of painting and photography, she creates peopled-spaces which seem to mirror domestic scenes. Her images/subjects inhabit environments of bright light, color, and texture. The paintings engender multiple contradictory tropical realities.



Blending the boundaries between public and private spheres, **Mary Dutra** is interested in experiencing art from inside her daily lived spaces. This collection shows an aesthetic approach that combines painting and photography to express a different way to live and produce art. She decorated her home with lavish colors that ignited the creative process. Then, models, with stripped sunglasses, were placed in strategic areas. Through the objects, each work tells its own story.

Mary Dutra was born in Rio de Janeiro. She has an undergraduate degree in Graphic Design, and graduate certifications and an MBA in business. Nine years ago, she founded her company *Mary Dutra Design*. She took courses in art history, Renaissance painting, open-air painting, nude, portrait and printmaking in Rio, London and especially in Florence. An avid world traveller, Mary has developed her own unique artistic style and technique of design and painting influenced by different cultures.

Valeria Veiga (valribeiroveiga@hotmail.com) captures movement, bodies in-between media, actions, and stages. Her photographs frame a given object in different times, spaces, and seasons in order to bring out the immaterial tensions lived daily by migrating subjects. Through her camera, urban dynamics lose their individual forms. Distorted liquid images emerge, giving birth to (an)Other body. The final product causes a strange sensation of suspense, doubt and/or displacement.



Valeria Veiga is interested in creating an eye/I that bears witness and produces urban spaces, cities, nature, landscapes, as well as their inhabiting subjects. In this work, she looks at light, water, and displacement to express the impact of movement on the body. The transit in the images explores the possibilities of recreation/rebirth – in passages, mediations, and migrations – from one environment to another.

Valéria Veiga was born in Niterói, Rio de Janeiro. She discovered her passion for framing “perfect moments” after moving to New York from her native Brazil. Her photography focuses on capturing the passing of time and urban transformations through seasonal changes and dynamic bodies in spaces around the globe. She has a law degree with graduate certification in international relations from UCAM/RJ before making this passion for photography a new profession and a new way to be in the world.

Wilton Garcia (wgarcia@usp.br) confronts viewers with multiple aesthetical references and disrupts conceptual possibilities of stability. His images suggest bodies in continuous states of movement in photos, videos, performances, and installations. Playing with visual distortions of light and focus, he provokes a perception short-circuit leading to cognitive slips that allow for a pluralistic experience. The individual works presented here compose a poetic series.



A photo, a video, a performance, a body. These images (re)create the possibility of human condition raising discussions about gender identities in transit. **Wilton Garcia**'s multimedia installation exposes cultural/sexual diversity through a flow of information in a queer poetics. He is interested in the interplay between color and transparency. In this context, the artist plays with feelings, experiences, and subjectivities by highlighting movements and their effects on the contemporary representation of gestures and subjects.

Wilton Garcia was born in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais. As a visual multimedia artist and researcher, he works with photography, performance and video focusing on the interface of art, communication and design on contemporary studies. Through body and image his work problematizes issues of cultural/sexual diversity, gender identities, and queer poetics. He has a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of São Paulo. He is currently a Professor of Communication at Fatec-Itaquá and at the graduate program at the University of Sorocaba.



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